

6/6/2023

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL, CHAIR  
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA, VICE-CHAIR  
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

ALSO PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS

BILL: 230271

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1 INSPECTOR HEALY:

2 Councilwoman, I'm happy to step in  
3 and I'm sure my partners can step in.  
4 Kristin Bray I think is on the call  
5 as well. She coordinates as part of  
6 the Nuisance Committee that we have.  
7 So if I say anything incorrectly, I'm  
8 sure she'll jump in and correct me.

9 The plan right now, this  
10 ordinance is really targeted at the  
11 business level. So the complaint  
12 would come in as they normally would.  
13 What happens now is the process once  
14 we get those complaints is being  
15 shifted as a result of this  
16 ordinance. So what happens is the  
17 complaints will come in as they do,  
18 311, are directed to the Captains  
19 which a lot of them come into. So  
20 the Captains are identifying and  
21 targeting -- I hate to use that word,  
22 but they're identifying the locations  
23 that are problematic based upon the  
24 complaints they receive.

25 This ordinance is very

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1 strategic or (inaudible) I should say  
2 in the way that it needs to be  
3 applied. So it's not something that  
4 the average police officer in the  
5 District will be writing tickets on.  
6 This is something that's coordinated  
7 out of the Captain's office. And I'm  
8 happy to share what I've already  
9 written before. I have a Police  
10 Commissioner Memorandum on this  
11 ordinance and it's entitled, A  
12 Nuisance for Commanders. That's the  
13 actual title of the enforcement plan  
14 that we have. It will be updated as  
15 a result of this ordinance but -- or  
16 the amendments. But the process is  
17 the complaints come into the Captain.  
18 The Captain identifies those  
19 locations. And then basically you  
20 have to understand just because  
21 nuisances happen at a location  
22 doesn't mean that the owner is aware  
23 of it or is responsible for it. So  
24 there's a step-by-step process.  
25 There's a three-step process as you

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1 indicated.

2 The first thing is once we  
3 identify nuisance behavior happening  
4 out there, we send a first  
5 notification letter to the owners of  
6 the location indicating, listen, you  
7 have nuisance behavior occurring at  
8 or on your location. You need to  
9 reach out to the Captain. We're  
10 happy to reach with you, talk with  
11 you and how to develop an abatement  
12 plan. If we get no response and we  
13 hit it again and go out and get  
14 another citation, now it used to be  
15 the time period for citations used to  
16 be more tight. It's more now three  
17 violations as a result of this  
18 amendment in a year. So it makes it  
19 much easier to do this process and  
20 explain it.

21 So the first letter goes out.  
22 They don't respond. We go back out  
23 again. We cite the individuals for  
24 doing the behavior out on the  
25 location. A second time we notify

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1 second inspection, third inspection,  
2 coordination with the Strike Force or  
3 whatever type of coordination needs  
4 to take place for the --

5 MS. REINHARDT: I'm sorry. I  
6 forgot to mention that our initial  
7 inspection we do coordinate with the  
8 police for assistance from the  
9 Narcotics Strike Force. I forget to  
10 mention that. I apologize. So they  
11 are present at the initial drug  
12 paraphernalia inspection.

13 INSPECTOR HEALY: Can I jump  
14 in very quickly and just add, the  
15 purpose of our centralizing with the  
16 inspector in the Nuisance Abatement  
17 Unit or Nuisance Unit is for exactly  
18 what you just mentioned, a  
19 coordination of efforts and that way  
20 they're using the Narcotics Strike  
21 Force and using the ROC chiefs if we  
22 need to use them for different  
23 inspections.

24 So it's that coordination at  
25 that higher level out of the Special

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1 Operations Bureau is why that unit  
2 was created. It's in its infancy  
3 right now, but we are in fact  
4 developing SOPs and flowcharts to  
5 ensure that all this stuff is better  
6 coordinated to the best we can do  
7 between our agencies. But that was  
8 the purpose of creating that unit,  
9 and also assigning an investigative  
10 person to that unit which is critical  
11 to actually tying -- I guess we do a  
12 lot of paperwork, a lot of things  
13 happen out front but how do we prove  
14 that what happened out front is  
15 actually connected to the  
16 establishment.

17 It may sound silly for us. We  
18 all know on its face. But when Law  
19 has to go in and argue these cases,  
20 they really need to establish that  
21 nexus. It's kind of like a problem  
22 law statement in a criminal case.  
23 It's very identical. So what we're  
24 going to do is make sure that process  
25 is in place. So as I mentioned

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1 before, the jobs that we have  
2 packaged up and hand off to L&I and  
3 Law are completely thorough and  
4 there's no holes in the  
5 investigations and everything is  
6 buttoned up tight, that will help us  
7 making sure that these cases don't  
8 walk when they go to court. So  
9 that's incredibly important. So  
10 we've dedicated the resources to that  
11 within the Police Department.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Okay. Understood. And  
14 I have just two additional questions:  
15 One would be specifically for the L&I  
16 part of the process. What is the  
17 timeline for each step in the  
18 process? And then finally, based on  
19 everything we heard today and knowing  
20 where we are in the process and  
21 knowing the requests that I know I  
22 submitted and many of my colleagues  
23 have, if you all can speak to if you  
24 believe you currently have adequate  
25 staffing to address the numerous